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#### ERRORS IN MANAGING SOILS

Soil Acidity is Responsible in Many  
Instances for Failure of Seeding  
of Alfalfa and Clover.

To be careless in the treatment of the soil is as fatal to profitable agriculture as to be indifferent in the care of live stock upon the farm, writes A. R. Whitson, chief of the State Laboratory, established by the last legislature to aid Wisconsin farmers.

We seem content to stop with the knowledge that there is something decidedly wrong with our fields. We know that at one time they yielded much better crops, but we willingly rest with the conclusion that they are "wearing out." Large areas of soils even in this state are acid, and as a consequence will not yield as plentifully as they should. We have to determine by means of a very simple test whether or not our fields are acid, and if so, apply a known and dependable remedy.

When a farmer finds that he cannot get a good stand of thrifty clover on his land, when he sees that certain weeds, such as corn spurry and sheep sorrel, grow readily in his fields, he could, by obtaining a small quantity of blue litmus paper at his drug store, easily test his own soil to find if it is acid. Soil acidity is responsible, in many instances, for the failure of seeding of alfalfa and clover.

Growing in soils well supplied with lime these plants are able to obtain the nitrogen essential for their growth through the work of certain kinds of bacteria or germs which penetrate the smaller roots, forming lumps or swellings, called nodules. Each of these nodules is a tiny chemical laboratory, in which nitrogen gas is built up into compounds for use by the plant.

#### MANAGING SHEEP IN WINTER

Where the Weather is Severe Ample  
Shelter and Food Must Be Fur-  
nished to Prevent Loss.

Even at the far south, sheep should be provided with comfortable sheds, and in those portions where snows fall, and the food is destroyed by frost, hay and roots of good quality and in abundance should be furnished. Where the winters are severe, shelter and food must be provided. The sheep should be brought to the pens early in the season. At the very first of the feeding season, the oldest and poorest of the flock should be separated from the others and put upon higher keeping. They should have grain in abundance and be made ready for the butcher as soon as possible. Too many sheep must not be kept in a single pen. If the pens are small, or the food is poor, large flocks will soon become diseased, and the owner will sustain a heavy loss.

A good shed, which is comfortably warm and thoroughly ventilated, should be provided. Sheep can endure cold much better than they can impure air. Still they should not be exposed to the action of wind or rain, and the temperature of the pen should not run extremely low. Small pens, which are quite warm, should be provided for the use of sheep at lambing time, and for sheep which do not own their lambs. The bottom of the shed should be kept constantly dry. Plenty of straw or waste hay should be used for bedding.

An occasional feed of bright corn-meals will be relished by sheep, and do them good. It is not well to keep breeding ewes very fat; on the other hand, it is simply ruinous to allow them to get very thin in flesh. A variety of food will be relished, and will



A Thrifty Trio.

give better results. As in summer, salt should be kept in a box to which sheep can have free access.

#### NECESSITY FOR PLANT FOOD

Can Farmer Afford to Take Risk in  
Seed, Kind of Fertilizer Used and  
Culture Employed?

The crops which you are growing average to mature in 60 to 90 days. The seasons are short. The plants must have their food every hour they are in the soil, and it must be available or they will not grow.

If you think you can trust quick-growing crops on infertile fertilizers, that is for you to determine, but in my judgment, taking the seasons as they go, wet and dry, hot and cold, you will find you will be the loser, says a writer in an exchange. You have to take a great risk as to the weather. That is the largest factor in raising crops.

Can you afford to take any risk in the seed, the kind of fertilizer used, or the culture employed, factors over which you have control?

#### Practical Farming.

When a milk farmer begins to pick himself up and grow ambitious, one of the surest signs is better stock, better feed. When a truck farmer begins to really hustle, he commences by using more manure. Did you ever know a successful practical farmer who did both his cows and his

#### HOUSEHOLD DUTY AND LOOKS

London Woman Advocates the One as  
Being Certain to Lead to  
the Other.

A London woman appears to have hit upon a sure way to make household duties palatable. The scheme may not be novel. Perhaps it has been tried many times. The London woman, however, gives it a freshness and a seeming sincerity that are very attractive. In the first place there must be an ostensible object in view. The London woman refers to this object as a systematic course of indoor exercise at home. What does she hope to secure by this systematized exercise? The creation and preservation of beauty. There you have it. What goal could be more alluring? Does the system require a gymnasium, a running track, the usual paraphernalia of indoor exercise? No. Its parallel bar is a broom handle, its dumbbells are brushes, its scaling ladders the front and back stairs. Listen to the London woman. "A good blood circulation is stimulated by bending to scrub a floor or a table, and a good circulation means good health."

Yes, and it means good looks, too. The London woman rounds her arms by dusting, lifting chairs and moving rugs, and brushing down the steps and sweeping floors. She gives herself a finer carriage and a steadier gait by carrying wood and coal to the domestic hearth. — Cleveland Plain Dealer.

#### POOR LITTLE THING



"Why what's the trouble?"  
"Boohoo! I was jest thinkin' that s'posin' I'd never git no offers of marriage 'ceptin' from a red-headed man an' I can't—boohoo—abide her red hair."

#### NO RIP SLEEP THERE.

Joe Jefferson once played a one-night engagement as Rip Van Winkle in a small Indiana town. In the hotel at which he stopped was an Irish porter, who, from the serious interest he took in the house, might have been the proprietor. At six o'clock the next morning Mr. Jefferson was awakened by a violent thumping on his door. He had left no "call" order, but his sleep was spoiled, so he arose and soon appeared before the clerk, indignantly demanding to know why he had been called.

Taking the clerk by the coat the Irishman led him to one side and said in a whisper: "He were shnorin' like a horse, sorr, and O! heerd the b'ys say as how he were wurst ather shlapin' for twenty years, so O! sez to meself: 'Moike, it's comin' on to him ag'n an' it's your duty to git him right out o' yer house.'" — Ladies' Home Journal.

#### NOT OVER-SUPPLIED.

When Senator Kern was running for governor of Indiana he stopped one noon at a little hotel in Brown county for some food.

"Hurry up, now," Kern said to the proprietor. "I have only fifteen minutes before my train comes."  
"No hurry, governor," the hotel keeper replied. "You can eat all there is in this hotel in five minutes." — Saturday Evening Post.

#### WHAT HE NEVER DOES.

Housekeeper—You ought to be ashamed to be beating your way through life, while honest people are so busy.

Tramp—I may have done some beating, mum, but one thing I can say with a clear conscience; I never beat carpets. — New York Weekly.

#### WAY SHE REASONS.

Crabshaw—Well, the taxi fares have been reduced at last.

Mrs. Crabshaw—Isn't that just splendid? Now, when I take one I'll be able to have a longer ride! — Judge.

#### MAKE ALCOHOL OF POTATOES

One Reason Industry Has Not Ad-  
vanced in United States is Be-  
cause of High Price of Tubers.

(Prepared by the United States Depart-  
ment of Agriculture.)

That the manufacture of alcohol from potatoes has not yet become established in the United States is due to various reasons. The price of potatoes marketable for other purposes has been too high, and no sufficient supply of culls and surplus potatoes has been available. The average price for distilling potatoes in Germany for the five years 1906-1910 was 18.3 cents per bushel. It is probable that the farmers there would be less disposed to grow the crop if it were not for its indirect benefits, including the feeding value of the mast left after the distillation of the alcohol, according to the department of agriculture.

The potato-drying industry in Germany is the latest development in the utilization of surplus potatoes, and came about only through the absolute necessity of finding an outlet for the surplus production that could not be consumed by the starch and alcohol factories. The rapid increase in the number of potato-drying factories in Germany shows great promise for this young industry, and should merit the careful consideration of our people as to whether the time has not already arrived for the introduction of this method into the United States, at least on an experimental basis. The problems to be met relate mainly to the present cost of the labor in picking up and delivering to the factory the potatoes not marketable for table purposes. In many cases, however, it is necessary to remove these culls from the field to prevent the spread of potato diseases, and it would seem that the drier would pay for the labor involved. The dried product is adapted for many purposes. Not only cattle but horses have been fed the dried potatoes as a substitute for grain with perfect satisfaction.

#### BROOD MARES FOR FARM USE

Percheron or Shire Will Generally  
Prove the Most Satisfactory—  
Profit Obtained in Colts.

In selecting a brood mare for farm purposes, the Percheron or Shire will generally prove the most satisfactory. They need not be too large because a heavy footed clumsy beast is to be avoided always.

A mare that weighs fourteen or fifteen hundred pounds is big enough for any use.

She should have a clean, bony head, a prominent, bright, intelligent eye, good legs and large hoofs.

Her barrel should be roomy but symmetrical with broad hind quarters.



Brood Mare and Colt.

Avoid a mare with any suggestion of "cat hams."

A good disposition is essential, but does not mean that a brood mare must be stupid or a bungler in harness.

Better pay \$300 for a first class brood mare than \$100. The difference will be made up in the first two colts, provided the right kind of a sire is used.

With a brood mare of this description a farmer can every year raise a colt that will sell from \$150 to \$300 and get good service in farm work out of her besides.

#### GOOD PASTURES FOR SWINE

Clover is Much Cheaper for Pigs Than  
Grain and It Pays to Give Animals  
All They Will Eat.

(By W. F. PURDY.)

A trip through the country will reveal the fact that a good many of the pig pastures on the farms are not pastures in fact, but simply small runs.

This means that the pigs get a little grass or clover while it is at its best early in the spring and then go without the rest of the season.

Now, if the pigs could be given a good big pasture where they would have more range and all the clover they would eat and some to spare the profit from them would be more.

Clover is very much cheaper food for pigs than grain and it pays to give them all of it they will eat. Fattening hogs will make the same gain on 25 per cent. less grain where they have access to good clover pasture.

#### Poultry Roup.

The most certain way of identifying poultry roup is a characteristic sickening odor.

#### Early Vegetables.

Every farm should have a hothed for early vegetables.

## Wood's Laxative Mineral Water.

Well Recently Bored 137 Feet Deep, Situated  
One Mile West of Hopkinsville.

#### ANALYSIS OF WATER.

By Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, Lexington, Ky:  
One gallon contains 323.6 grains of solid matter (5.53 grams per liter,) composed mainly of sodium chloride (common salt,) sodium sulphate (Glauber's salt,) with small amount of calcium sulphur, calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate and sodium sulphide. Hydrogen sulphide free and combined is present to the extent of 5.0 grains per gallon. There are traces of sodium iodide and sodium bromide, iron, silica, potassium and lithium salts. There is a salt-sulphur water and would doubtless have a laxative effect in addition to the other properties of a sulphur water.

S. D. AVERITT, Chemist.

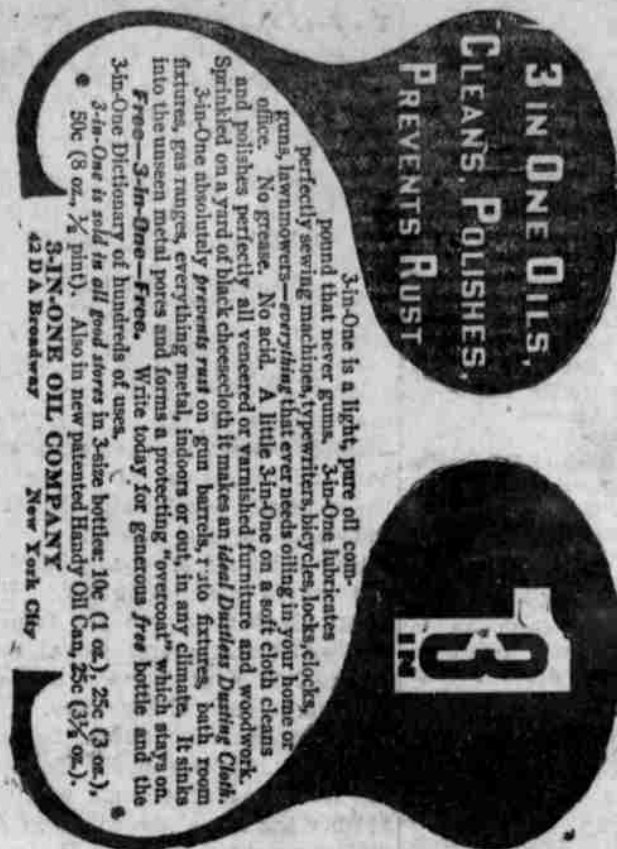
The following testimonial is submitted, with signatures:  
"I have used Wood's Laxative Mineral Water and it has benefited me more than any water I have ever drank."

A. A. Charlton, G. T. Herndon, J. B. Littlefield, Frank Wright, Mrs. J. B. Littlefield, F. Wilkins, E. H. Major, Mrs. F. Wilkins, Walter McCord, Mrs. M. H. Wood, L. J. Harris.

On and after April 4 this water will be on sale at J. O. Cook's drug store, where orders can also be taken for any quantity.

Water will be delivered to any part of the city by wagon twice a day.

**J. H. DAVIS, Manager.**  
**J. W. WOOD, Owner.**



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